



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1219

~~technical correction: public roadways~~
(NOW: extracurricular and athletic activities; accessories)

Purpose

Prohibits public schools and interscholastic athletic associations from disallowing a student from wearing religious or cultural accessories or hair pieces while participating in extracurricular or athletic activities.

Background

School districts are required to prescribe and enforce policies and procedures relating to the health and safety of all pupils participating in district sponsored practice sessions or games or other interscholastic activities (A.R.S. § 15-341). When establishing or enforcing rules related to a pupil's participation in extracurricular school activities, school districts are required to consider the cultural traditions of pupils. If the rules prohibit a student from participating because of the student's cultural traditions, statute allows the school district to adopt alternative rules to allow the student's participation but take into consideration the health and safety of those participating in the activities (A.R.S. § 15-347).

The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) is a voluntary association of approximately 267 public schools and private high schools in the state. The AIA establishes rules for extracurricular and athletic activities, registers officials and sanctions events. The National Federation of State High School Associations also publishes rules for athletic events that AIA administers through its staff and officials.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Prohibits school districts, charter schools or an interscholastic athletic association that a school district or charter school is a member of prohibiting a student from wearing religious or cultural accessories or hair pieces while participating in extracurricular or athletic activities if it does not put the pupil or any other person participating in the activities health or safety in jeopardy.
2. Specifies that the officiant or the supervisor of an activity determines if the accessory places the pupil's health or safety in jeopardy.

3. Makes a conforming change.
4. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted in Committee

- Adopted the strike everything amendment.

Amendments Adopted by Committee of the Whole

- Specifies that the officiant or the supervisor of an activity determines if the accessory places the pupil's health or safety in jeopardy.

Senate Action

ED 2/18/16 DPA/SE 7-0-0

Prepared by Senate Research

February 24, 2016

BM/CB/lrs